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ABSTRACT

This is one of a series of elementary readers written in Cantonese and English and designed to familiarize children with the traditional major Chinese festivals celebrated by the Chinese in America. This booklet describes the celebration of the Dragon Boat Festival, which marks the beginning of summer. A brief background to the festival is provided in English. (CLK)

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ED119482

# Dragon Boat Festival

Gordon Lew

# 端午節的故事

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The Dragon Boat Festival is one of the major festivals celebrated by the Chinese. Originally, the festival was to mark the coming of summer. Observance of the festival usually incorporated the following:

1) Thanksgiving rites for harvest.

2) Preparation for the hot and dry summer months by cleaning house, spreading insecticides, taking preventative medicine, killing certain insects or animals believed to be disease carriers, gathering herbs, etc.

3) A simple sun ritual at noon by incense offering.

4) Competitive sports such as wrestling, boat racing, and demonstration of martial arts.

5) Burning of flowers of sulphur (realgar) to ward off evil atmosphere.

6) Family gathering and banquets with special food.

The festival was later expanded to include the commemoration of a patriotic poet, Ch'u Yuan, who committed suicide by jumping into the Milo River after his banishment by the king. Dragon boats then were reinterpreted as the means people used to keep the sea demons away. The special food, 粽子 tsungtse (Mandarin) or 粽 joong (Cantonese), was thrown into the rivers to feed the fish so they would stay away from the body of Ch'u Yuan.

Bilingual-bicultural booklet produced
by the Chinese Bilingual Pilot Project.
E.S.E.A., Title VII.

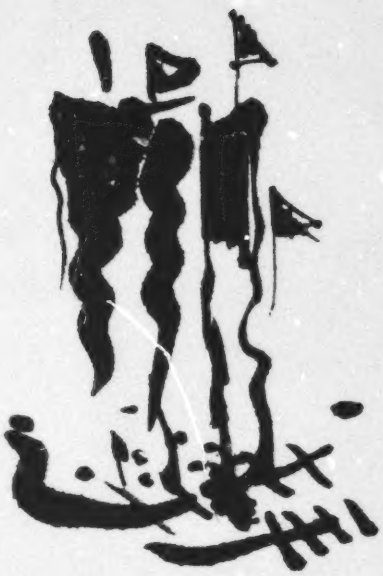
Mr. Wellington Chew, Supervisor
Mr. Victor Low, Project Manager
Mrs. Sophie Lau, Chairman of
Chinese Bilingual Advisory Committee

May the 5th.
Summer comes.
The sun is hot.
The land is dry.

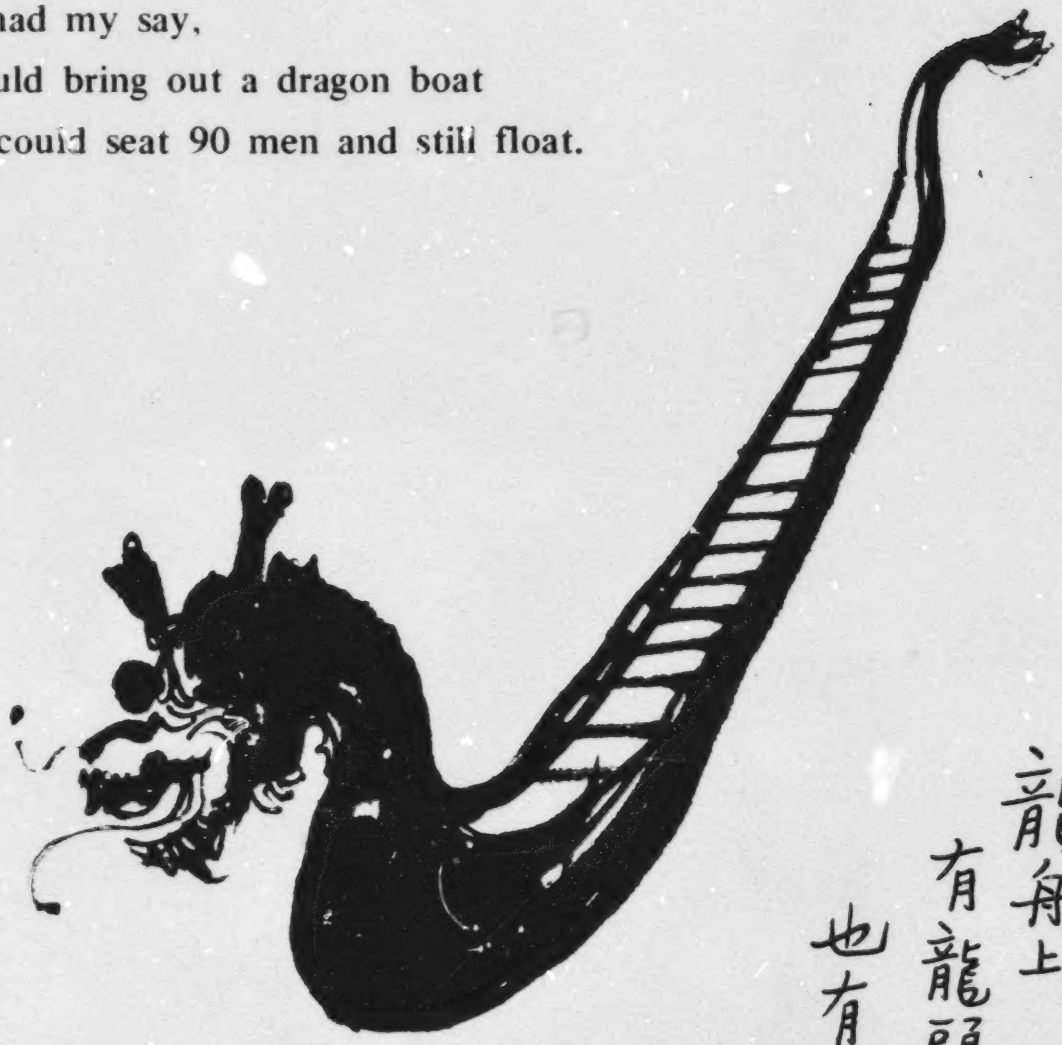
今天是農曆五月五日
又叫端午節
古人說：
「夏天來了，
天氣很熱，
要禁百蟲，
除百病。」

If I had a chance,
I would invite the whole town
to join us in this
Dragon Boat Festival.

我要把大家
都請來
看賽龍舟.



Clear the way! Clear the way!
If I had my say,
I would bring out a dragon boat
that could seat 90 men and still float.



龍舟上，
有龍頭，有龍尾，
也有長長的龍身。

You'll sit on the left side.
He'll sit on the right side.
If I had my say,
I'll be the drummer for the day.

你坐在左邊，
他坐在右邊，
我來做鼓手，
好不好？

Take the drum to the river.
We are going to have a race.
Dragon Boat race!
Dragon Boat race!

讓開，讓開，
我拿大鼓下龍舟，
你們要看賽龍舟，
快跟着我來。

這一天也是紀念愛國詩人
屈原的日子。
你來說屈原的生平，
我來朗誦他的詩。

I'll put on a robe
and read poems of Ch'u Yuan.
He loved China and his people,
but he died in the Milo River.

I'll wait until noon
to light some incense.
That was the old way
to respect the sun on this day.

還要當天燒午香，
像古人一樣的敬太陽。

I'll ask the folks,
"Have you forgotten
to clean your house
and clear all the bugs?"

This is the day we clean house.
This is the day we kill bugs.
This is the day we catch frogs.
This is the day we have a big
Dragon Boat race!

端午節還要大清理，
探百草，捉蝦蟆，
除蟲避毒。

I'll ask all the mothers
and all the grandmothers
to make the best tasting tsungtse
out of sweet rice and all the goodies.

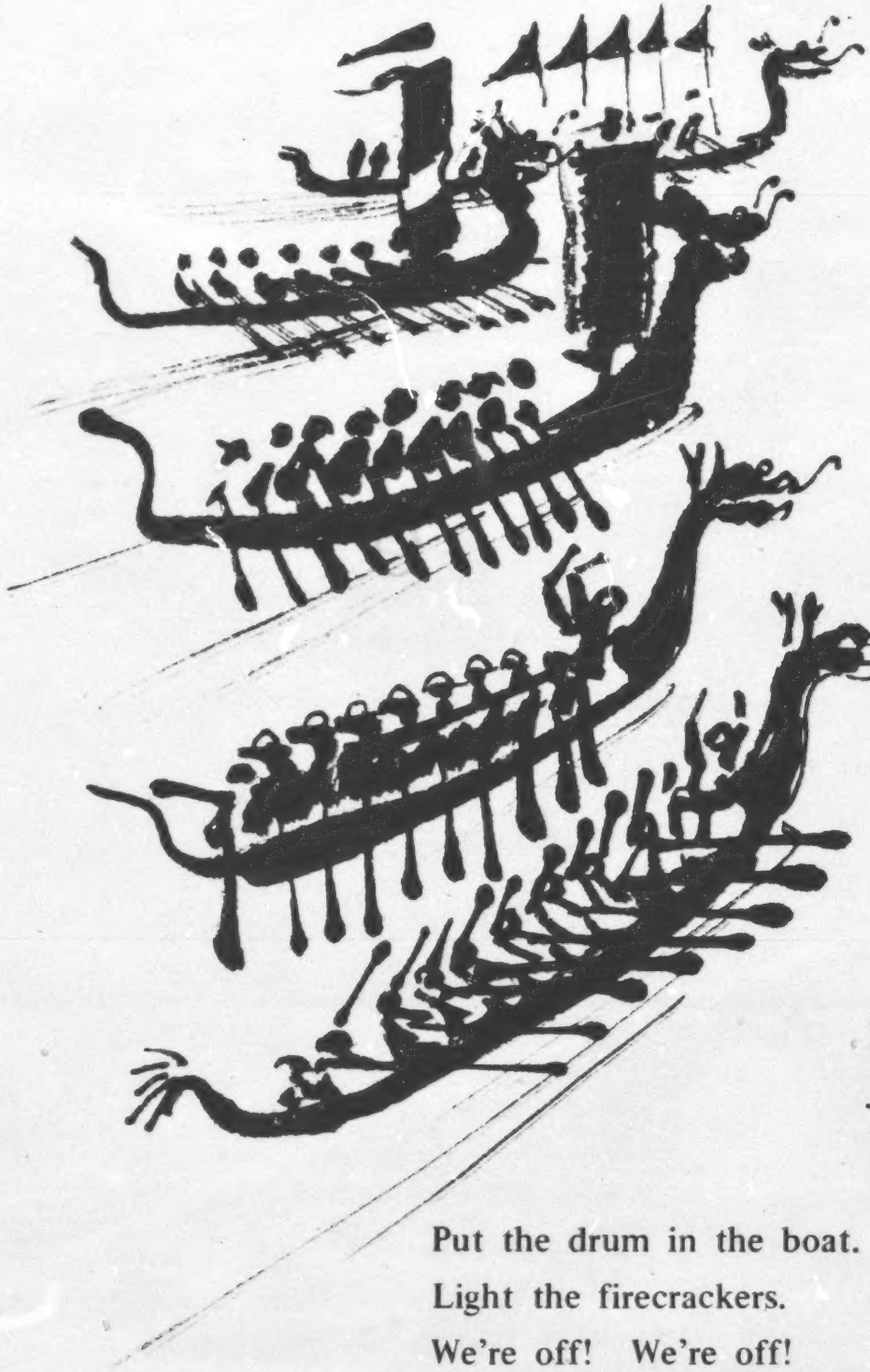
這一天，
大家
來吃
粽子。

**Firecrackers!**
**Firecrackers!**
**Bring out the firecrackers!**
**We will start the race!**

呼呼呼，鞭炮響，
賽龍舟
快要開始了。

龍舟來了，
有從東面來的，
有從南面來的，
有從北面來的，
也有從西面來的。

The other boats are ready.
One came from the north,
one came from the west,
one came from the east,
and that one, that one,
that one came from the south.



賽龍舟開始了，
快點，快點，
咚咚咚，
我用力打鼓！

Put the drum in the boat.
Light the firecrackers.
We're off! We're off!
Row! Row! Row!
Faster! Faster! !

We won! We won!
Let's go home and eat tsungtse.
We'll have another race
at this time next year.

勝利了，勝利了。
我們勝利了。
大家回家吃粽子，
明年再來賽一次！

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